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Message Text

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61
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SS-20 A-01 OPR-02

SY-10 SCA-01 SCS-03 L-03 RSC-01 DRC-01 /086 W
---------- 077708
R 111655Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2669
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR SY IT
SUBJECT: STATUS OF USINT, DAMASCUS

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

REF: STATE 3361

1. RESPONSIBLE FONOFF OFFICIAL THANKED EMBOFF FOR INFO PROVIDED REFTEL CONCERNING SCOTES STATUS AS HEAD OF USINT. AMBASSADOR BUCCI HAS CABLED FROM DAMASCUS THAT HE HAS ALSO RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM BOTH KHADDAM AND ISMAIL. OFFICIAL ALSO GRATEFUL FOR INFO CONCERNING US-SYRIAN AGREEMENT ON COMMUNICATIONS AND WILL AWAIT DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON SOLUTION TO POUCH PROBLEM BEFORE CABLING INSTRUCTIONS TO BUCCI.

2.MOST RECENT TELEGRAM FROM BUCCI TO FONOFF, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT BUCCI STILL NOT CLEAR ON OVERALL STATUS OF USINT SECTION NOW THAT IT HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY US PERSONNEL. CONSEQUENTLY, BUCCI HAS ASKED FOR FRESH GUIDANCE FROM FONOFF ON JUST WHERE HE STANDS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW SETUP. FIRST OF ALL, BUCCI WOULD LIKE TO KNOW PRECISELY AND FULL WHAT WAS AGREED UPON BY US AND SYRIANS IN ESTABLISHING USINT SECTION MANNED BY US PERSONNEL. SECONDLY, BUCCI ASKS WHETHER PROTOCOL SIGNED JUNE 10, 1967 BY ITALY (ROMANO) AND US (DEIBEL)
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SHOULD NOT BE REVISED IN LIGHT OF NEW SITUATION AND PROPERTY

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REFERRED TO THEREIN BE RECONSIGNED TO US CUSTODY. THIRDLY, BUCCI REQUESTS CLARIFICATION AS TO THE ROLE OF HIS EMBASSY VIS-A-VIS THE SYRIANS AND THE US -INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES - UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT.

3. FONOFF OFFICIAL, AS PERSONAL OPINION, FEELS THAT BUCCI IS PERHAPS EXCESSIVELY CONCERNED ABOUT RAMIFICATIONS OF NEW USINT SECTION SETUP BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CLARIFICATION AND REASSURANCE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE TO EASE BUCCI'S MIND. WE ASSUME THAT SCOTES IS BRIEFED TO SOME EXTENT ON THESE MATTERS AND, ARMED WITH WHATEVER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT FEELS NECESSARY, WOULD BE IN BEST POSITION TO IRON OUT ANY PROBLEMS PERSONALLY WITH BUCCI. IN MEANTIME, WE WILL APPRECIATE ANY COMMENT OR INFORMATION WHICH WE CAN PASS ON TO FONOFF. VOLPE

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